

REMARKS

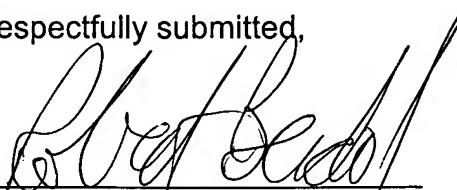
The Examiner's Action mailed on November 5, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3, amended independent claim 2 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 4, and canceled claims 3 through 5, and 14. Claims 1 and 2 are the independent claims, and claim 1, 2, 6 through 13, and 15 and 16 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers claims 3 and 4 as containing allowable subject matter. As noted, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3, and independent claim 2 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4. As such, since the independent claims now include this allowable subject matter, and since the remaining claims all depend from these allowable independent claims, all of the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot. As such, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Berdo, Jr.
Registration No. 38,075
RABIN & BERDO, PC
Customer No. 23995
Telephone: 202-371-8976
Facsimile: 202-408-0924

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Date

RHB:vm